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REVIEWS OF BOOKS

Manuel de Bibliographie Historique. Par CH.-V. LANGLOIS, Charge de cours à la Faculté des Lettres de Paris. I. Instruments Bibliographiques. (Paris : Hachette et Cie. 1896. Pp. xi, 193.)

"OF all the sciences auxiliary to historical studies," says M. Langlois in his preface, "bibliography is incontestably the most generally useful and the most neglected." Palæography, epigraphy and diplomatics concern directly only a limited number of students, but no one can carry on useful work in any line of history without some acquaintance with bibliography, without the ability to find out what are the sources for a given subject, what has already been written upon it, and what are the best means of keeping abreast of new publications as they appear. The knowledge of this sort which one acquires by experience is almost inevitably fragmentary and incomplete, and must be gained at the cost of mistakes that might have been avoided, and time which might have been saved, by systematic training in the use of bibliographical tools. The necessity of a well-ordered knowledge of bibliography grows more pressing with increased activity in publication, not only as a means of rendering accessible the enormous mass of material constantly pouring from the press, but also in order to direct attention from well-gleaned to more profitable fields of investigation and thus bring about economy of effort in historical research.

It was such considerations as these that led M. Langlois to introduce systematic instruction in historical bibliography at the Sorbonne and to publish the first part of his unique course in permanent form. The *Manuel* is not a list of "best books" or a "reader's guide" to historical literature; its aim is to introduce the reader to the best instruments of bibliographical research and enable him to use them intelligently. The volume naturally falls into two parts. The first book deals with the general works which the historian must use in common with other students: bibliographies of bibliographies, repertories of incunabula and of rare or useful books, library catalogues, and the registers of publications issued in the various countries. Book II. is devoted to historical bibliography proper, and treats first of works relating to the original sources and then of the bibliographies of printed books, arranged according as they have to do with universal history, with the principal periods of history, with the history of particular countries or localities, with special branches of history, or with allied sciences. The enumeration of titles under the various headings does not profess to be exhaustive; the author has selected the works which have proved useful in his own experience or are well spoken of by specialists, and while opinions will of necessity differ as to

the wisdom of the selection in every case we doubt whether many important works will be found lacking. American contributions to bibliographical science are well represented; we miss, however, Jones' *Index to Legal Periodicals*, Miss Davenport's bibliography of English manorial and agrarian history, and Vincent's *Contributions toward a Bibliography of American History, 1888-1892*. Additional indexes of publications of the United States Government might well have been mentioned. The author has been misled by the title of Gurney's *Reference Handbook of English History*, which is not a bibliography, but a set of genealogical tables, nor is it entirely fair to class Larned's *History for Ready Reference* among bibliographies of universal history. W. F. Allen's *Reader's Guide to English History* should be cited in the revised edition of 1883 and as an independent publication.

M. Langlois has not confined himself to a mere list of titles, but has commented freely on the works cited and made numerous references to critical reviews, while the excellent discussions of bibliographical method make the book valuable to professional bibliographers as well as to students of history. Ease of reference is secured by the arrangement of the material, which has evidently been classified with great pains, and by an unusually complete index. Praise should be also given the proof-reading, which has been done with extraordinary care, particularly in the difficult matter of citations from foreign languages. It would be hard to find another work which condenses into the same space so much useful and accurate information on historical matters.

The second part of the manual is to treat of the history and organization of historical studies in the various countries of the world and describe "the principal undertakings and monuments of modern erudition and historiography."

CHARLES H. HASKINS.

Historical Briefs. BY JAMES SCHOULER. With a Biography. (New York: Dodd, Mead and Co. 1896. Pp. 286.)

IN this volume are collected nearly all of Mr. Schouler's detached essays on historical subjects. In six of them Mr. Schouler discusses the processes of the historian, a field which has been much neglected by English and American historical writers, who, in the practical spirit of Dr. Primrose, seem to have thought it of more service to produce literary offspring than to talk about it. As a result, the English student has had to rely for guidance mainly upon examples and *obiter dicta*. Mr. Schouler's contribution to supply this deficiency deserves a cordial welcome from teachers and students. It is, however, the youthful writer of history rather than the investigator to whom the author addresses himself in the majority of these papers. Not the least interesting feature of these discussions is his revelation of his own method of work. In the more theoretical parts Mr. Schouler has compressed his matter too much; the essay on "Historical Testimony" in particular could have been expanded